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Ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2014 session of the Economic and Social Council on the theme "Addressing ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future"

Ministerial declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council on the theme "Achieving the Millennium Development Goals and charting the way for an ambitious post-2015 development agenda, including the sustainable development goals"

We the Ministers, having met at United Nations Headquarters in New York,

1. Recall the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] the outcomes of the 2005 World Summit,[2] the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[3] the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development[4] and the special event convened by the President of the Assembly on 25 September 2013 to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,[5] as well as Assembly resolutions 67/290 of 9 July 2013 and 68/1 of 20 September 2013;

2. Welcome the first and inaugural meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the General Assembly on 24 September 2013;

3. Also welcome the holding of the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi, from 23 to 27 June 2014;

4. Emphasize that the implementation of a post-2015 development agenda should take into consideration the special challenges and needs of the least

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

[1] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[2] General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[3] General Assembly resolution 65/1.

[4] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

[5] General Assembly resolution 68/6.

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developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and African countries, as well as the specific challenges that many middle-income countries face. Conflict and post-conflict countries will also require our special attention, in order to address their specific challenges;

5. Reaffirm the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action),[6] and look forward to the upcoming third International Conference on Small Island Developing States and the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries;

6. Have considered the themes of the 2014 annual ministerial review, "Addressing ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future", and of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, "Achieving the Millennium Development Goals and charting the way for an ambitious post-2015 development agenda, including the sustainable development goals";

7. Welcome what has been achieved through implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, which have provided a common vision and contributed to remarkable progress and significant and substantial advances in meeting several of the targets relating to the Goals;

8. Are determined to address the remaining unevenness and gaps in achievement and the challenges that remain, in particular, for the most off-track Millennium Development Goals, and those where progress has stalled;

9. Reiterate our strong commitment to the Millennium Development Goals and resolve to intensify all efforts towards acceleration of the achievement of the Goals by 2015 on the basis of national ownership and support from the international community;

10. Underline the central role of a strengthened global partnership for development, recognize the importance of national ownership and emphasize that, if the Millennium Development Goals are to be achieved by 2015, national efforts need to be assisted by international support and an enabling international environment. The mobilization and effective use of all resources, public and private, domestic and international, will be vital;

11. Reaffirm the importance of promoting human rights, good governance, the rule of law, transparency and accountability at all levels;

12. Call for the urgent implementation of all commitments under the global partnership for development so as to overcome the gaps identified in the reports of the Millennium Development Goals Gap Task Force, and emphasize the need to accelerate progress towards the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income as official development assistance by 2015, including 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent for the least developed countries, and also call upon developed countries to urgently fulfil the official development assistance commitments that they have made, individually and collectively;

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[6] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

Post-2015 development agenda

13. Are committed to establishing a strong, ambitious, inclusive and people-centred post-2015 development agenda that will build on the foundations laid and experiences gained during the Millennium Development Goals process, complete the unfinished business and respond to new challenges;

14. Reaffirm, as we take the work forward, our commitment to the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[7] the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus [8] and the outcomes of all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields, and will continue to be guided by the values and principles enshrined in those texts;

15. Reaffirm all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[9] including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in principle 7 thereof;

16. Resolve that the post-2015 development agenda should reinforce the commitment of the international community to poverty eradication and sustainable development, underline the central imperative of poverty eradication and are committed to freeing humanity from poverty and hunger as a matter of urgency and, recognizing the intrinsic interlinkage between poverty eradication and the promotion of sustainable development, underline the need for a coherent approach that integrates in a balanced manner the three dimensions of sustainable development and involves working towards a single framework and set of goals that are universal in nature and applicable to all countries, while taking into account differing national circumstances and respecting national policies and priorities, and should also promote peace and security, democratic governance, the rule of law, gender equality and human rights for all;

17. Reaffirm that, as the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, poverty eradication shall be central to the post-2015 development agenda;

18. Recognize that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development. We also reaffirm the need to achieve sustainable development by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, inter alia, economic,

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[7] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[8] General Assembly resolution 63/239, annex.

[9] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

social and human development while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration and restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges;

19. Welcome the operationalization of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns and look forward to the launch of all of its programmes;

20. Stress the importance of economic growth and of social and economic inclusion, in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development;

21. Reiterate that, in arriving at an inclusive and people-centred post-2015 development agenda, we look forward to a transparent intergovernmental process that will include inputs from all stakeholders, including civil society, scientific and knowledge institutions, parliaments, local authorities and the private sector;

22. Acknowledge with appreciation the processes mandated in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development that are now under way, in particular the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, and the process to develop options for a technology facilitation mechanism, as well as the preparations for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in July 2015, and look forward to the successful outcomes of these processes;

23. Look forward to the submission, before the end of 2014, of the report of the Secretary-General synthesizing the full range of available inputs, as an input to the intergovernmental negotiations that will be launched at the beginning of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly and culminate in a summit at the level of Heads of State and Government in September 2015 for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda;

24. Resolve to strengthen the science-policy interface, including, inter alia, through a global sustainable development report that, taking into account the discussions on the options set out in the report of the Secretary-General during the meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Council in 2014 and building on existing assessments, could provide a strong evidence-based instrument to support policymakers to promote poverty eradication and sustainable development, thereby contributing to the strengthening of ongoing capacity-building for data collection and analysis in developing countries;

25. Stress the need to remove the obstacles to the full realization of all rights of people living under foreign occupation which adversely affect their ability to promote the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and an ambitious post-2015 development agenda, including the sustainable development goals;

26. Also stress the importance of removing obstacles in order to promote the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and an ambitious post-2015 development agenda, including the sustainable development goals, for people living in areas affected by complex humanitarian emergencies and terrorism;

27. Reiterate that the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Council shall conduct regular reviews, starting in 2016, on the follow-up to and implementation of sustainable development commitments and objectives, including those related to the means of

implementation, within the context of the post-2015 development agenda, and further reiterate that these reviews shall: be voluntary, while encouraging reporting, and shall include developed and developing countries, as well as relevant United Nations entities; be State-led, involving ministerial and other relevant high-level participants; provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders; and replace the national voluntary presentations held in the context of the annual ministerial-level substantive reviews of the Council, building upon the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 61/16 of 20 November 2006, as well as experiences and lessons learned in this context;

28. Emphasize that the reviews shall take into account the lessons learned from and the experiences of relevant existing review mechanisms, including the national voluntary presentations held in the context of the annual ministerial reviews;

29. Commend the work that has been undertaken by the Council, including in its operational activities, integration, humanitarian affairs and high-level segments, and coordination and management meetings, the annual ministerial reviews, the Development Cooperation Forum, the special high-level meeting with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the youth forum, with its particular emphasis on youth employment, and the partnership forum, as well as the work in the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Council, as concrete contributions to the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

30. Recognize the vital role that science, technology and innovation, including the transfer and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies on mutually agreed terms, can play in achieving poverty eradication and sustainable development and in supporting efforts to address global challenges;

31. Acknowledge the importance of the regional dimension for sustainable development and invite the United Nations regional commissions to contribute to the work of the Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development, including through annual regional meetings, with the involvement of other relevant regional entities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate;

32. Are fully committed to a sustainable future for our planet and for present and future generations.

35th plenary meeting
9 July 2014